UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.3/50/L.61/Rev.1
11 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 112 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Panama, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela: revised draft resolution

Human rights and terrorism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations 2/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 3/

Recalling the Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, 4/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

3/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

4/ Resolution 50/6 of 24 October 1995.

Taking into account that acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations aimed at the destruction of human rights have continued despite national and international efforts,

Bearing in mind that the most essential and basic human right is the right to life,

Bearing in mind also that terrorism creates an environment that destroys the freedom from fear of the people,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, 5/

Recalling also its resolutions 48/122 of 20 December 1993 and 49/185 of 23 December 1994,

Taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1995/43 of 3 March 1995, 6/

Reiterating that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that every individual should strive to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance,

Seriously concerned at the gross violations of human rights perpetrated by terrorist groups,

Profoundly deploring the increasing number of innocent persons, including women, children and the elderly, killed, massacred and maimed by terrorists in indiscriminate and random acts of violence and terror, which cannot be justified under any circumstances,

Noting with great concern the growing connection between the terrorist groups and other criminal organizations engaged in the illegal traffic in arms and drugs at the national and international levels, as well as the consequent commission of serious crimes such as murder, extortion, kidnapping, assault, taking of hostages and robbery,

Mindful of the need to protect human rights of and guarantees for the individual in accordance with the relevant international human rights principles and instruments, particularly the right to life,

Reaffirming that all measures to counter terrorism must be in strict conformity with international human rights standards,

1. Expresses its solidarity with the victims of terrorism;

5/ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

6/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995 Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/1995/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

2. Reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of the acts, methods and practices of terrorism as activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States, destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, undermining pluralistic civil society and having adverse consequences on the economic and social development of States;

3. Calls upon States to take all necessary and effective measures in accordance with international standards of human rights to prevent, combat and eliminate all acts of terrorism wherever and by whomever committed;

4. Urges the international community to enhance cooperation at regional and international levels in the fight against terrorism with the aim of its eradication;

5. Condemns incitement of ethnic hatred, violence and terrorism;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to seek the views of Member States on the possible establishment of a United Nations voluntary fund for victims of terrorism, as well as ways and means to rehabilitate the victims of terrorism and to reintegrate them into society, and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, for its consideration, a report containing comments made by Member States on the subject;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to all Member States and to competent specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations for their consideration;

8. Encourages special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, as well as treaty bodies, to pay appropriate attention, within their mandates, to the consequences of the acts, methods and practices of terrorist groups;

9. Decides to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".